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Mulberry Missionary Baptist Association

v. 1.	1844	v. 11.	1895
v. 2.	1856	v. 12.	1896
v. 3.	1873	v. 13.	1897
v. 4.	1879	v. 14.	1898
v. 5.	1881	v. 15.	1899
v. 6.	1885	v. 16.	1900
v. 7.	1886		
v. 8.	1887		
v. 9.	1889		
v. 10.	1892		

The next meeting of the Second District will be held with Shady Grove Church, on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1886—Elder L. M. Hicks to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder J. M. Langston alternate.

Subjects for discussion: 1st. Should Ministers of the Gospel who serve Churches as Pastors perform manual or mental labor to support their families? Opened by W. Y. Nix and B. H. Mize. 2d. What are the duties of a Pastor to his Churches? Opened by J. D. Langston and W. H. Pratt.

The next meeting of the Third District will be held with Liberty Hill Church, Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in August, 1886—the Introductory Sermon to be preached by R. M. Honeycutt; A. E. Burns alternate.

Subject for discussion: Does the Apostle, in the 6th chapter of Romans, refer to Water Baptism, or to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost? Opened by W. G. Riggins.

MINUTES.

SATURDAY, Sept. 26th, 1885.

The delegates from the different Churches composing the Mulberry Baptist Association met with the Jemison Baptist Church, it being the fifty-eighth annual meeting of the body.

The Brother that was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon not being present, Elder T. M. Bailey was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Brother Bailey preached at 11 o'clock from the parable of the talents, as written in the 24th chapter of the Gospel by Mathew.

After a recess of one and a half hours, the delegates assembled again, and after singing prayer was offered by Elder F. M. Hobson, the former Moderator, who then called the body to order.

The names of the Churches were then called and the delegates bearing letters handed them to the Clerk.

The Moderator then appointed Brothers J. G. Harris and A. E. Burns reading committee. The letters were read by them and the names of the delegates enrolled as follows:

Mars Hill Church—Z. W. Langston, R. J. Langston, J. M. Scott.*

Antioch Church—Daniel Ward,* O. J. Cottingham,* J. M. Langston, J. M. Thomas,* A. J. Woolley,* D. W. Freeman,* Z. J. Corley, H. L. Woolley.*

Center Hill Church—Jesse Webb, Thomas Cleckler, C. L. Langston.

Pleasant Hill Church—James P. Robinson,* James M. Pool,* W. P. Scott.

Bethlehem Church—John Jones, A. Merold,* C. M. Williams.

Shady Grove Church—Joseph Helton,* James Smitherman, Z. T. Belser* and J. G. Payne.*

Paovidence Church—R. M. Honeycutt, J. J. Lowery, John Boyd,* James E. Champion, H. N. Beasley,* J. B. Martin.*

Macedonia Church—S. D. Posey, S. E. Waldrupe, W. Y. Nix, John P. Atchison.*

New Salem Church—A. B. Hill, J. W. Maddox, E. M. Bean, T. G. Williams*.

Jemison Church—A. E. Burns, L. J. Hand, Isaac Lawhorn.

Rehoboth Church—I. M. Hicks,* M. F. Lawley, Mathew Longcrier, James Collins* and G. M. Woolley.*

Pleasant Grove Church—W. A. Wood,* J. T. Thomas,* Albert Patterson and Z. J. Jones.*

(Absentees marked thus *)

Brethren J. G. Harris and A. E. Burns were then appointed tellers, and the Association voted for a Moderator and Clerk. Elder F. M. Hobson was re-elected Moderator and R. M. Honeycutt Clerk.

The Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum were then read.

The Moderator then appointed the following Committees:

On Devotion—Mathew Longcrier, Z. W. Langston, with the Deacons of Jemison Church.

On Arrangement of Business—J. J. Lowery, L. J. Hand, A. B. Hill, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance, M. F. Lawley, Albert Patterson and Z. J. Corley.

On State Missions—James Skaggs, W. Y. Nix, Z. J. Corley.

On Home Missions—J. M. Langston, M. F. Lawley and S. D. Posey.

On Foreign Missions—A. E. Burns, W. G. Riggins and R. M. Honeycutt.

On Sabbath Schools—O. J. Cottingham, W. H. Holman and A. E. Burns.

On Temperance—F. M. Hobson, R. M. Honeycutt and O. J. Cottingham.

Open the Door for Correspondence: Received from the Unity Association—Elder Jefferson Falkner, J. M. Kalin, Henry C. Young and Elder T. J. Elim.

From the Shelby Association—Elder G. T. Lee, J. M. Langston, Jr., and W. H. Allen.

Returned Correspondence as follows : To the Tuscaloosa Association—Elder J. M. Langston and F. M. Hobson.

To the Harmony Association—Elder A. E. Burns.

To the Shelby Association—Isaac Lawhorn.

Ministers not Messengers were then invited to seats with us.

The Devotional Committee offered the following report, which was adopted :

Brother J. G. Harris to Lecture this evening at 7 o'clock; Sabbath School Mass Meeting to-morrow at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M., and Elders T. M. Bailey to preach at the Presbyterian Church at 11, and Jefferson Falkner to preach at the Baptist Church at 11. A Missionary Mass Meeting at the Baptist Church at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. Elder F. M. Hobson to preach at the Baptist Church at 7 P. M., and Elder J. M. Kalin at the Presbyterian Church at 7 P. M.

On motion, the Association then adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday.

SABBATH, September 27th.

According to the arrangement of the Devotional Committee the day was occupied.

The Sabbath School exercises were well attended and interesting, and instructive lectures, were delivered by Brethren J. G. Harris, T. M. Bailey and others. There was, indeed, a revival of the Sabbath School work felt by the people present.

The brethren preached according to the arrangement of Committee, and the services were largely attended and much enjoyed by the people. In the mass meeting, at 3 o'clock, we listened to one of the best lectures on the subject of missions, that the people of this section ever enjoyed. Brother T. M. Bailey was the speaker, and truly the people were awakened to their duty upon that subject.

Before the close of the services Brother Bailey called on the delegates to know of them what amount they would try to get their churches to pay to the Mission Work for the next Associational year. There were promises to the amount of \$143.00, and we believe that the amount will be sent up. The night services were also well attended, and we have good reasons to believe that the seeds sown during the day will bring forth an abundant harvest.

MONDAY, September 28.

The delegates assembled and engaged in singing, after which prayer was offered by Elder J. M. Langston.

The Moderator then called the body to order, and proceeded to business by first calling the roll and marking absentees. (See table.)

On motion, Brethren Alfred Childers and Albert Foshee were received as delegates from Liberty Hill Church, they being present and having no letter.

Called for the Report of Committee on Arrangement of Business—The report was received and business taken up accordingly.

Opened the Door for Correspondence—Received correspondence from Shelby Association, Elder C. W. O'Hara, M. E. B. Jones, W. F. Bridges, James Goole and N. H. Sayers.

From the Central Association—R. B. Prewitt.

From the Unity Association—Eld. Wm. A. Huckabee.

Called for Report of Committee on State Missions—The Committee offered the following report, which was received and adopted and the committee discharged:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Mission Board was organized in 1875. During the ten years of its existence, it has done a great work in our State.

The statistics of the work for these years are as follows: Days of service by Missionaries, 50,818; sermons delivered, 27,196; baptisms, 4,887; received by letter, 1,591; restored, 600; total additions to the Churches, 6,578; Churches constituted, 110; Sunday Schools organized, 1,138; religious visits made, 30,737; miles traveled, 357,642; tracts distributed, 200,000 pages; number books sold, 27,134; value for, \$12,490.69.

The supporters of the work have reason to be gratified for what God hath wrought.

What share has Mulberry Association had in this work? Alas, very little. Brethren, let us take hold and help to take possession of Alabama for Christ.

J. A. SKAGGS, Ch'n.

Next called for report of Committee on Indigent Ministers.

No report from the 1st and 2nd districts.

Committee from the 3rd district report Brother A. B. Hill the only one that is in need of help from the Association at present.

A collection was then taken up for Brother Hill,

which amounted to \$20.00 cash, and \$5.00 in pledges ; Elder T. M. Bailey also gave \$5.00 from the State Mission Board. Total amount, \$30.00.

Next called for report of Finance Committee. The following was offered and received :

We your Committed on Finance have received for Minutes and Associational purposes.....	\$22.50
For Missions.....	16.30
Balance in Treasurer's hand.....	18.70
Total.....	\$57.50

M. F. LAWLEY, Ch'n.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed, after paying for the Minutes and other expenses, to send the balance of the money belonging to the Association to the Secretary and Treasurer of the State Mission Board, to be appropriated as the Board directs.

Called for report of Committee on Home Missions.—The following was offered, received and adopted :

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee present the following report:

It is with deep emotions of gratitude to God that we report the work of Home Missions in such a flourishing condition. Never has the cause committed to the Home Board been so encouraging—never has that Board had more tangible evidences of God's favor, than during the year just closed. In their recent report they say, never in all its history has the labor of its missionaries been more effective in the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom, than during the past year.

They report 2,865 baptisms, and 1,525 received by letter—a total of 4,190 additions to the Churches through the labors of their missionaries. The number of missionaries employed was 144—in Alabama, 2; Missouri, 7; Mississippi, 7; Tennessee, 1; California, 4; Virginia, 3; Georgia, 6; Louisiana, 8; Arkansas, 12; Florida, 28; Indian Territory, 18; Texas, 53. But while the work is thus blessed of God, we are sorry to see that we are doing so little ; therefore,

Resolved, That by the help of God, we will do better in the future.

Respectfully submitted.

JOAB M. LANGSTON, Ch'n.

Then called for report of Committee on Foreign Missions—The following was offered and adopted and committee discharged :

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Foreign Missions, beg leave to submit the following :

That the subject of Missions in general commands itself to the hearts of the Baptist Brotherhood at large, is a fact which needs no proof. We are pledged by the very name we bear to support missions. We might bear the name of Baptist alone, but in order to make it plainer

to the world, we have prefixed the qualifying word *Missionary* to show to the world and the rest of mankind the principles we profess on this all-important subject.

Foreign Missions is no new subject—it has been talked of and spoken about in this Association for a long time, with but little practical results. The time has come when we should wake up on this subject, and prove our name by our works. Other Associations are engaging heartily in sending the Gospel to the millions of heathens who are without hope and without God in the world. Brethren of the Mulberry Association, the great commission, “Go ye into all the world,” etc., is as applicable to you as to any other body of christians or individuals.

“Why stand ye here all the day idle?” The Macedonian cry, “Come over and help us, is still borne on the wind, and appeals to every one of us to-day to put in the sickle and reap down these fields which are already ripe unto harvest. The Chinaman from his squalid hut, the Hindoo from the jungles, the Arab from the desert moor, the African from the parched plain, and the Islander from his surf-beaten shores, are all appealing to us in touching strains for the gospel which maketh wise unto salvation. Therefore, we appeal to you, in the name of Him who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son to redeem it; in the name of Him who came to seek and to save that which was lost; in the name of Him who came into this world to reprove it of sin, of righteousness, and of a judgment to come, that you withhold not your help from these perishing millions who are starving for the bread of life. Can you go and teach all nations yourself? Yes, you can go in your hearts, in your prayers, and in your contributions. Again we appeal to you to open your hearts, your hands, and your pocket books, and help forward this grand and glorious work.

Respectfully submitted.

A. E. BURNS, Ch'n.

Then adjourned for dinner; at 2 o'clock re-assembled and called for the report of Committee on Temperance. The following was offered and read, adopted and committee discharged.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Bible teaches mankind to be temperate in all things. But the use of intoxicating drinks has become so prevalent and so destructive to the best interests of Christianity, that it has come to a point when we, as a denomination, should enter our protest against the use of strong drink as a beverage. Some one has said, “the best place for whiskey is in the corn.” We heartily indorse this idea, and we recommend to all the brethren of this Association to use their utmost efforts to regulate this evil, so as to rid our country of the temptation which it offers to the ruin of the morals and peace and prosperity of so many of the people. Let us make our prayer unto God, and set a watch against our enemies, day and night.

Respectfully submitted.

F. M. HOBSON, Ch'n.

Then called for report of Committee on Sabbath Schools, which was received, adopted and committee discharged.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We regret that the Clerks of the Churches have sent up such imperfect reports as to the condition of their respective Churches in regard to this department of Church work.

We gather from the letters and upon inquiry, that there have been five Sunday Schools kept up for a longer or shorter period in the bounds of the Association during the past associational year. With a single exception (Jemison), no report is made of the name and number of officers, number of teachers and scholars, etc.

Brethren, let us urge you to do two things: First, go home and organize and keep up Sunday Schools. *Do not neglect this department of Church work;* the Sunday School is the nursery of the Church, and if you wish to "train up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," as you are commanded to do, *take them to the Sunday School.* Secondly, report your school in your letter to the Association next year, together with the name of the Superintendent; number of officers, teachers and pupils, number of scholars in Bible class, and what literature is used.

We ask these two things at the instance of the Statistical Secretary of S. S. for the State, Bro. Wm. A. Davis. Again we urge, see to it that your reports are full upon this subject another year.

Respectfully submitted.

A. E. BURNS, Ch'u.

Then called for General Business.

A petitionary letter was presented by Elder F. M. Hobson, asking for letters of dismission from our Union for the following named churches: Union, Spring Hill, Liberty, Mulberry, South Sandy, Pineflat, Haysop and Elliott's Creek. Said petitionary letter stated that these churches proposed to form a new Association.

On motion, the letters were granted.

Bethlehem Church also asked for a letter of dismission to join the Shelby Association.

The letter was granted.

On motion, adjourned until 7 o'clock at night, at which time we re-assembled and were called to order and agreed to hold the next meeting of this Association with Rehoboth Church, 4½ miles west of Randolph, Bibb county, Alabama, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1886.

On motion, the Association, by ballot, appointed Elder A. E. Burns to preach the Introductory Sermon, and R. M. Honeycutt alternate.

Resolved, That the Clerk superintend the printing of five hundred copies of these Minutes, and that he receive \$10.00 for his services; and that Joab M. Langston be appointed distributing agent in the Second District—Minutes sent by mail to Six Mile. The Clerk to distribute in the Third District.

The following resolution was offered and received:

Resolved, That we recommend to the Churches composing the Mulberry Association that they report, at each of its regular sessions, the entire amount of money raised by each Church during the associational year, and how the same has been expended.

Respectfully,

L. J. HAND.

On motion, this Association returns its most hearty thanks to the members of Jemison Church and the citizens of Jemison and surrounding neighborhood, for their hearty welcome to us and their kind entertainment during our stay with them. May the rich blessings of our God rest upon them, and may the labors of our meeting with them be blest with an abundant harvest for Christ sake.

Resolved, That whereas our beloved Brother, F. M. Hobson, has served us as Moderator so long, and been so long connected with our Association, but is now to be severed from us, which we regret so much;

Resolved, That we hereby express our thanks to him for his kind services and faithful labors among us, and may our God shield, protect and bless him to his journey's end, is our humble prayer.

The Association having finished all the business on hand adjourned to meet at the time and place above mentioned.

F. M. HOBSON, Moderator,
Haigler, Ala.

R. M. HONEYCUTT, Clerk,
Clear Creek, Ala.

CLERK AND TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee for Minutes, &c.....	\$22 50
Balance from last year.....	19 80
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	\$42 30

Paid for printing Minutes.....	\$12 00
Clerk's fee.....	10 00
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Balance to be sent to State Mission Board.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

SECOND DISTRICT—Daniel Ward, Six Mile, Bibb county, Ala.

J. M. Langston, " " "

I. M. Hicks, Randolph " " "

THIRD DISTRICT—A. B. Hill, Lomax, Chilton county, Ala.

R. M. Honeycutt, Clear Creek, Chilton co., Ala.

Wm. A. Wood, Clanton, Chilton county, Ala.

W. G. Riggins, Strassburg, Chilton county, Ala.

A. E. Burns, Jemison, Chilton county, Ala.

James Gothard, Jemison, Chilton county, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	PASTORS	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY	AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVING			
				BAPTIZED	PRESOULS	PRESENT MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
<i>Second Dist.</i>							
Autoca	O. J. Cottingham	Six Mile	Bibb	4.00	1.7	1	1.00
Shad Grove	T. E. Taylor	Randolph	Bibb	3.12	7	104	1.50
Lehoton	R. M. Honeycutt	Clear Creek	Chilton	1.3	8	80	2.00
Maudville	James Godard	Jemison	Chilton	2.18	8	2	1.00
<i>Third Dist.</i>							
Coal Hill	R. M. Honeycutt	Junison	Chilton	1.6	1	1	1.00
Providence	A. E. Burns	Clear Creek	Chilton	17.12	3	3	2.00
Phoebe Grove	A. E. Burns	Jemison	Chilton	1.6	1	1	1.00
New Salem	A. E. Burns	Jemison	Chilton	4.0	1	1	1.00
Liberty Hill	R. M. Honeycutt	Clear Creek	Chilton	4.0	1	1	1.00
Jessica	G. T. Lee	Jemison	Chilton	4.0	2	1	2.00
Mineral Spring	Not represented	W. G. Biggins	Strasburg	2.0	1	1	1.00
Wasatchey	W. G. Biggins	James Godard	Strasburg	2.0	1	1	1.00
Pleasant Hill	James Godard	Strasburg	Strasburg	3.12	8	1	1.50
Mars Hill							

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W. A. DAVIS,

SAMUEL WENDHEIM, D. D., Associate Editor.

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